

NSC BRIEFING

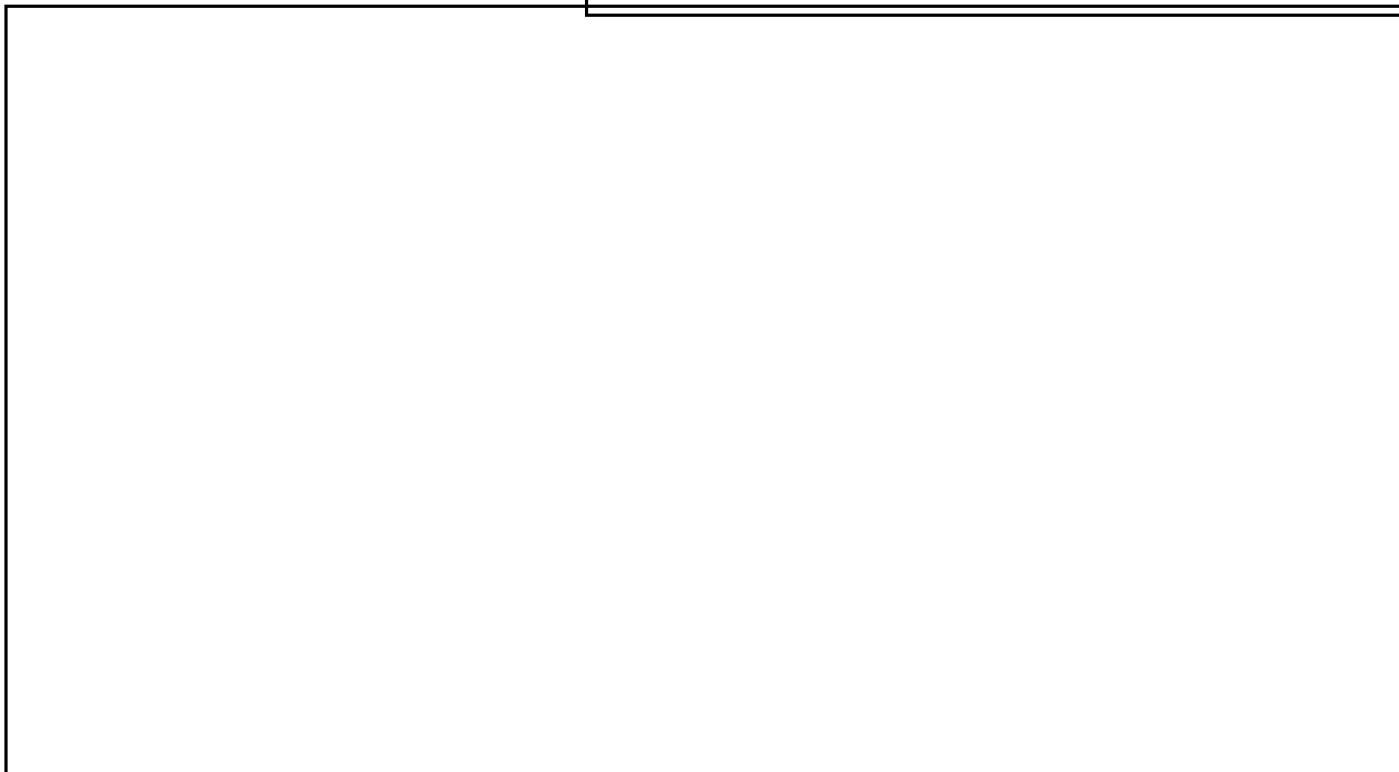
31 October 1956

NEAR EAST CRISIS

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- I. Arab counter-moves to Israeli and Anglo-French assaults on Egypt

25X1 have not yet materialized.



D. Lebanese, including Christian president Chamoun, are ironically asking "where is the Egyptian army?" Photos of Nasr, which decorated rear windows of Beirut taxicabs, have become notably fewer in number.

(I. Internationally, except for Israelis, people most pleased with developments seem to be French.

A. National Assembly gave Mollet less extensive support for intervention, however, than it gave last August, when only Communists opposed a strong Suez policy.

NSA review completed

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- B. Seems generally accepted in Paris that French have been planning move with Israel and Britain for some weeks.

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- C. British are less unanimous in their glee, Laborites still condemning policy of force despite many party members' long-standing sympathy for Israel.

III. Reactions from other nations have been hostile to the Anglo-French action.

- A. Among Bloc comments, USSR, Communist China and Poland have denounced the "armed aggression" against Egypt and collusion between Israel and western imperialists. Soviet statement calls for UN Security Council to take "immediate steps" halt aggression.
- B. Among "third forcers", Marshal Tito has stated that Israeli and Anglo-French actions constitute a "single aggression.", An Indonesian Foreign Ministry spokesman "warned" that Asian and African nations would "not remain quiet" if Britain and France send troops to Suez. Indian Foreign Office has called officially on the UN to take action to secure withdrawal of foreign troops from Egyptian territory.
- i. Both Yugoslav and Indian statements call attention to the danger of war "on an extended scale."

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